

**PUBLIC HEARING
DECEMBER 14, 2012**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington held a Public Hearing on December 14, 2012, beginning at 9:05 AM in the Council Chambers of City Hall to receive citizen comments on the proposed 2013 budget. Mayor Ames Barnett presided.

Present were Mayor Barnett, Council members Armour, Cullars, Harris, Rainey and Tutt. Council member Scarborough was absent due to personal illness. Also present were City Administrator Eskew, City Clerk Danner, City Attorney Fleming and Financial Coordinator Sherri Bailey.

Visitors present were Charles Wagner, Annie R. Wilkinson, Hattie Callaway and Kip Burke of the News Reporter.

City Administrator Eskew advised that there had been two citizens to come in and review the proposed budget, Charles and Betsy Wagner.

Mr. Wagner addressed council and expressed the opinion that staff had done an excellent job in formulating the proposed 2013 budget. Some thoughts for consideration: enforce property tax collection; have employees make some 20 to 30% contribution to health insurance costs; and, improve council decorum at meetings.

Council discussion included: \$60,000 Assistant Administrator position – leave in to begin search knowing that perhaps this total amount will not be spent in 2013; budget some \$25,000 for rental of a Bobcat; increase electric rates to generate some \$250,000 in revenue, leaving industrial customers at 2012 revenue levels; handle tree trimming through the current electric department; trim legal and professional costs by being prudent on calls to the attorney; budget some \$45,000 to replace fire hydrants; budget personnel at a 2% cost of living increase; budget \$5,000 for the UGA personnel study; 7% water and sewer rate increase as deemed necessary to meet GEFA requirements; and, consider privatizing trash/garbage pickup.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

MAYOR

CLERK